

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed November 26, 2007. Claims 1 – 18 remain in this application. In view of the amendments above and the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Objections to the Drawings

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.83(a) because the drawings fail to show grooves present at locations where the incident light on the plate has a higher intensity are wider than grooves present at locations where incident light on the plate has a lower intensity. The Examiner further states that Applicant never points out any incident edge or any lighting source.

New Figure 4 illustrates a light box and light transmitting plate as set out elsewhere in the specification, for example, in the second paragraph on page 1, page 5, lines 5-12 and Figures 2 and 3. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the drawings objection and approval of the enclosed proposed new drawing.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1 – 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,636,283 to Egawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,578,977 to Sasagawa et al. – hereafter Sasagawa.

With regard to Claims 1-9 and 16-17, in making the rejection, the Examiner contends that Egawa discloses the claimed invention except for the teaching of the reflective grooves having a reflective powder and the grooves having a lower density pattern and a higher density pattern in certain locations, thereby reflecting more than 80% of the total incident light impinging on the entire light-transmitting plate. The Examiner

cites Sasagawa for remedying this deficiency in Egawa. Specifically, the Examiner cites Sasagawa for teaching that grooves include reflective (diffusive) film or powder. The Examiner contends that powder is synonymous with film. The Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to modify the grooves of Egawa to include the reflective film or powder of Sasagawa in order to efficiently reflect light.

Regarding claims 10-15, The Examiner contends that as applied in claims 1-9 and 16-17, it would have been an obvious engineering design choice at the time of the invention to make the grooves a certain width of the reflective powder/film out of a certain material.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection with respect to each and every claim. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's statement that "**powder is synonymous with film**" is without merit. Applicant invites the Examiner to produce **a single reference** which teaches or suggests that "powder is synonymous with film". Absent such a showing, it cannot properly be concluded that the Claims would be obvious, since the use of powder provides distinct advantages over prior art systems.

It is respectfully submitted that powder is not synonymous with film, for at least the following reasons. As disclosed at paragraph [0009] of the specification, *the powder comprises calcium halophosphate, calcium pyrophosphate, BaSO.sub.4, MgO, YBO.sub.3, TiO.sub.2 or Al.sub.2O.sub.3 particles. Such a powder is physically resistant against high temperatures, whilst important chemical properties thereof do not deteriorate as a result of being exposed to high temperatures, light and/or moisture. The powder is in particular a "free-flowing" type powder.* The Applicant invites the Examiner to produce a single reference that describes an equivalent **film** having the properties described above, namely, **a single film** that is physically resistant against high temperatures, whilst important chemical properties thereof do not deteriorate as a result of being exposed to high temperatures, light and/or moisture.

Further, Applicant respectfully point out the to the Examiner to produce a single reference that discloses a film having a physical property that mimics the pattern density

variations provided by the grooves of the light-transmitting plate. In particular, the film provided by such a reference would necessarily have to have a reflective property that mimic the effect of grooves (containing powder) being wider at those locations where the incident light has a higher intensity, and grooves being less wide at those locations where the incident light has a lower intensity. In other words, the film could not be homogeneous in its construction. Based at least on the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the currently pending claims are patentable over Egawa in view of Sasagawa and requests reconsideration and removal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

New Claim

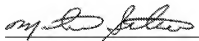
The subject matter of new claim 18 is not disclosed or suggested in any of the cited references. None of the cited references disclose wherein said means comprise at least one light-transmitting plate, having grooves formed therein, said grooves being configured as a matrix, said grooves filled with a diffuse reflective powder constituting a patterned reflective material.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1 – 18 are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Mr. Frank Keegan, Intellectual Property Counsel, Philips Electronics North America, at 914-945-9669.

Respectfully submitted,NL



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